Corporation, or, it should be divided into different Corporations. It is not finally decided as to what would be the shape of things to come. It is under the consideration of the Government. Various stages are being passed through. We will come back to you as soon as a final decison is taken in regard to the future status of the Delhi Municipal Corporation.

श्री सभापति : राम अवधेश जी आप सवाल कीजिये। बहुत देर मत लगाइये।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि दिल्ली में जो बड़े बड़े होटल हैं, उन पर कितना बकाया है। जैसे मेरीडियन होटल है, चरणजीत सिंह का, उसके ऊपर कितना है, टाटा का ताज है, उस पर कितना बकाया है, मौर्या होटल पर कितना बकाया है, हयात रीजेंसी पर कितना बकाया है। ये जो बड़े बड़े लोग हैं जो रोज लाखों कमाते हैं उन संस्थाओं के ऊपर कितना बकाया है और बकाया है तो सरकार उनसे सख्ती से वसूलना चाहती है या नहीं ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Sir, I may not be able to say at the moment how much a particular hotel is to pay, but at the same time there are....

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : वसूलना चाहती है कि नहीं, यह बताइये। कब तक वसूलेंगे। कितना बकाया है। आप पीछे बता सकते हैं। इसके लिए सेपरेट नोटिस कर सकते हैं। लेकिन इतना तो कह सकते हैं कि एक दो महीने में वसूलेंगे, जितना भी बकाया हो। यह बोलिए।

SHRI M. M. JACOB : The total outstanding amount for the MCD is Rs. 68 crores on account of property tax from private, residential and non-resdentail buildings An amount of Rs. 109 crores is due from public sector undertakings. Regarding the hotel cases....

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH : My question is pin-pointed.

SHRI M.M. JACOB : There are disputes between some of the hotels and the NDMC on the amount payable by them, which I may not be able to give, but the dispute is mostly about the tariff enforced. Those disputes are there. Several cases are pending in the Supreme Court also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : About these five-star hotels ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next Question. Question No. 364.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : कब तक वसूलेंगे यह मैंने कहा था। सवाल का जवाब तो दिया नहीं मैंने कहा कि यह तो आप कह सकते हैं, सरकार की ओर से इतनी बात ये बोल सकते हैं कि बकाया है। कितना बकाया है आज नहीं बता सकते, अभी नहीं बता सकते, यह मैं मानता हूं। लेकिन यह कब तक वसूलेंगे, कड़ाई करके यह तो बतायें सदन को।

श्री सभापति : प्रश्न संख्या 364।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : यह आश्वासन दें।

Compulsory purchase of medicines from specific shops

*364. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Doctors in A.I.I.M.S. and other hospitals in Delhi have been prescribing certain medicines to patients and asking them to buy these from specific shops only, as reported in the India Express of the 11th March, 1992 ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these medicines were being manufac-

tured at Shaket, New Delhi, by these Doctors of A.I.I.M.S. ;

(c) if So, what are the detals thereof ; and

(d) the action taken against those involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARATHA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government is aware of the allegations reported in the Indian Express of 9-3-92 and 13-3-92 regarding the alleged involvement of some doctors in AIIMS and other hospitals relating to prescription of certain medicines to patients and advising them to buy the same from specific shops only. On the basis of the preliminary enquiry and reports received, the concerned doctor of AIIMS has been placed under suspension w.e.f. 20-3-92 and the C.B.I. has been asked to urgently enquire into the matter.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, the problem that I referred to in my question was extremely serious. It concerns a doctor, prescribing spurious drug and asking the patient to take the drug from a particular shop. After taking the drug the patient falls seriously sick, to the exent that he had to be taken to the intensive care unit. The patient goes to the hospital makes the complaint, but there is no remedy. When newspaper report appears, the authorities come to senses and an inquiry is instituted. But the whole thing is taken in extremely casual manner on the part of the Government.

I would like to know whether the person, to whom the medicine was prescribed had fallen sick, had named several other doctors ; whether all those doctors who form the inner ring of this drug racket have been chargesheeted or arrested, or whether any inquiry has been intsituted against them. Part (b) of my question is, what action has been taken against that specific shop from where the drug used to be sold by these delinquen doctors ? Part (c) of my question is. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have mercy on the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Why is the Government asking CBI to enquire ? The CBI does not have the medical experts. It is not the panacea for every social evil in the country. Therfore, what prevented you from appointing a medical experts' committee to look into the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR) : Sir I must tell the honourable Member that the Government is not "casually" looking into these cases. The Government is not only serious but is taking a judicial view of the matter. We could not have taken a decision, immediately unless, *prima facie* a case is made out against the person who commits some crime. After the report was received, we looked into the matter and a *prima facie* case was established against the Doctor—I think, some Dr. Singh—of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. We thought it advisable and in the fitness of things to place the Doctor under suspension. I don't think this action in any way can be called "casual" or even, I should say, unusal.

The second point that the honourable Member has asked is whether any action has been taken against the shop owner who ha reportedly sold this medicine to sl certain person. I may tell the

honourable Member that the Delhi Drug Controller has registered a case, lodged a complaint, and yesterday, I am told one or two persons have been arrested : Thus action has been taken against the shop owner.

About the third point, I agree with the honourable Member that the CBI is not a panacea for everything, but the matter needs to be looked into a depth and in details—whether a sufficient case under law is made out or not.

So far as the fourth point is concerned, whether it is going to be examined technically, I may tell the honourable Member that already we have appointed a Technical Committee in the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences which will look into the matter technically and report to us within three months.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : My point is....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put your second supplementary, please.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : My point is, it is a criminal offence for a doctor to knowingly prescribe a wrong medicine to a patient who does not need it and, as a result of the administration of that medicine, the patient falls ill. It is a criminal offence. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is interested in initiating criminal charges —not a departmental inquiry or a CBI inquiry—because it may lead to loss of life or to his permanent incapacitation. Therefore, from that point of view I would like to know why criminal charges are not being initiated against the so-called Associate Professor and also against the persons named by the patient. The persons who have been named have not been hauled up ; only this particular person has been hauled up. Therefore, criminal offence and his associates are my two pointed questions.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Sir, I must tell the honourable Member that I have been informed that the patient who was treated was never taken to the Intensive Care Unit of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. I do not understand what the honourable Member means when he says it is a criminal offence—whether the criminal offence be inquired into by a doctor, a technal committee or the police or the CBI ....(*Interruptions*).. Just listen.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : The criminals should be arrested.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him reply, please.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : I think that the honourable Member, perhaps, is not a law graduate. Such cases are referred to the police or the CBI. The CBI, after they see that a *prtima facie*....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : I seek your protection, Sir. When a doctor knowingly prescribes a wrong medicine, is it a criminal offence or not ? Let the Minister say that.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : Sir, the question does not appear to be clear. I would not say whether it is criminal or not. The very fact that I have transferred the case and launched a CBI inquiry into the matter indicates that....

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken preliminary steps.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : ....it is for the CBI to see whether a *prima facie* case is made out against the Doctor or not. One is not judged by the saying of A, B or C. I will go by the advice of the legal and technical authorities in the matter—whether it is the Technical Committee or the CBI.

....(*Interruptions*)....

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मंत्री महोदय क्या इस विषय में अटार्नी जनरल से राय जानेंगे ?

उपसभापति : आप तशरीफ रखिये ।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो शिकायत मेंबर ने इसमें पूछा है, जयप्रकाश नारायण अस्पताल, हिन्दू राव अस्पताल और गरु तेगबहादुर अस्पताल, यही नहीं, बल्कि सी० जी० एच०एस० की कुछ डिस्पेंसरियों में सरकारी मुलाजमीन तक को दवाइयां नहीं दी जाती हैं और कह दिया जाता है कि बाहर से खरीद ली जायें ।

क्या मंत्री जी की इसकी जानकारी है ? अगर उन्हें इसकी जानकारी नहीं है, तो मैं पूरी जिम्मेदारी के साथ उनको यह जानकारी दे रहा हूं और आश्वासन चाहता हूं और जानना चाहता हूं कि क्यों वह इसकी इंक्वायरी करेंगे ?

†شری محمد افضل عرف م۔افضل : میں منتری جی سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ جو شکایت ممبر نے اس میں پوچھا ہے ۔ جے پرکاش نارائن اسپتال ہندو راؤ اسپتال ۔ اور گورو تیغ بہادر اسپتال یہی نہیں بلکہ سی۔ جی ایچ ایس کی کچھ ڈسپنسریوں میں سرکاری ملازم تک کو دوائیاں نہیں دی جاتی ہیں اور کہہ دیا جاتا ہے کہ باہر سے خرید لی جائیں ۔ کیا منتری جی کو اس کی جانکاری ہے ۔ اگر ان کو اس کی جانکاری نہیں ہے تو میں پوری ذمہ داری کے ساتھ ان کو یہ جانکاری دے رہا ہوں ۔

†[ ] Transliteration in Arabic script.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR : I Will tell the MBI to get a statement from Mr. Afzal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Birth of a baby with AIDS virus in AIIMS

*365. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a Committee to look into the controversial case of the birth of a baby with AIDS virus in AIIMS;

(b) if so, what are the names of members of Committee and the number of sittings the Committee has held so far ; and

(c) if no sitting has been held, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee was orginally constituted as under :—

1. Dr. S.P. Tripathy, Chairman
Additional Director General,
I.C.M.R.,
NEW DELHI.
2. Dr. Jacob K. John. Member
Christian Medical College,
VELLORE (Tamil Nadu)
3. Dr. C.J. Vas, Member
Dr. B. Nanavati Hospital,
BOMBAY.
4. Dr. A.N. Safaya, Convenor
Medical Superintendent,
A.I.I.M.S.,
NEW DELHI.